

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 89 as follows:

--FIG. 11 shows the bit error rate observed in the conventional decoding method in which the ~~PLL~~-RLL decoding unit 33 is a FBA decoder and the LDPC decoding unit 34 decodes an input code ten times using a message-passing algorithm. FIG. 11 also represents the bit error rate observed in the decoding method according to the present invention. In FIG. 11, the bit error rates are plotted on the ordinate and the signal-to-noise ratios are plotted on the abscissa. Also in FIG. 11, the solid line indicates how the bit error rate changes with the signal-to-noise ratio in the decoding method of this invention, and the broken line shows how the bit error rate changes with the signal-to-noise ratio when the RLL decoding unit 33 is a FBA decoder.--

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